

Canada Border Services Agency – Prairie Region (PRA)

Impacts from the Blockade Protest – Coutts and Emerson

February 21, 2022

Background

On Saturday January 15th, 2022, a federal mandate requiring truck drivers crossing the border between Canada and the United States came into force.

On Saturday January 22, 2022, a convoy to protest these mandates began from several points and traversed across Canadian provinces with the ultimate goal of congregating for a rally at Parliament Hill on Saturday January 29th, 2022. On this same day, the Canadian Trucking Alliance, which represents more than 4,500 carriers, operators, and suppliers, stated publicly that the “vast majority” of the Canadian trucking industry is vaccinated, and it condemns protest on public roadways.

On Friday January 28th, 2022, a large group of Canadian truck drivers and their supporters converged on Ottawa to protesting coronavirus restrictions and demanding they be ended. Trucks, trailers and vehicles blocked the streets around Parliament Hill and remained in place until Saturday February 19th, 2022.

PRA Protest Impacts

On Saturday, January 29th, 2022, as the result of vaccine mandate for truck drivers, a convoy of trucks converged at both the Emerson and Coutts ports of entry (POEs).

On Monday, January 17th, 2022, the convoy began a “slow roll” protest in Emerson conducting an on-going loop on highway in an attempt to slow traffic. This loop continued on during the week at various dates and times, until Thursday February 3rd, 2022, when the “slow roll” convoy decided to move their protest to Winnipeg. The “slow roll” convoy returned on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 and began a blockade which lasted from Thursday, February 10th, 2022 to Wednesday, February 16th, 2022.

On Saturday, January 29th, 2022, a blockade began in Coutts which lasted until Thursday, February 3rd, 2022. It opened briefly and then the blockade returned around midnight on Monday, February 7th, 2022. The blockade remained in place at Coutts until Tuesday, February 15th, 2022.

From Wednesday, December 1st, 2021, to Friday, January 28th, 2022, the day before the convoy blockades began, the Prairie Region processed 85,999 commercial conveyances. During that time, Emerson Commercial accounted for 36% (31,354), Coutts Commercial 28% (23,804), North Portal Commercial 22% (18,559) with the remaining Prairie Region’s smaller ports making up the remaining 14% (12,282) of the PRA total.

From Saturday, January 29th, 2022, when the convoy blockade began in Coutts until Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 when the convoy blockade in Emerson ended, PRA processed 20,767 commercial conveyances. In that time, Emerson Commercial accounted for 31% (6,513), Coutts Commercial 6% (1,257), North Portal Commercial 27% (5,694) with the remaining Prairie Region’s smaller ports making up the remaining 35% (7,303) of the PRA total.

- As a result of the blockages in Coutts and Emerson, and compared to the previous 18 days:
 - In total, PRA had a decrease of 6,536 commercial conveyances (24%)
 - Coutts Commercial had a decrease of 7,514 commercial conveyances (86%),
 - Emerson Commercial had a decrease of 3,208 commercial conveyances (33%),
 - North Portal Commercial processed an additional 589 commercial conveyances (12%),
 - Small PRA POEs processed an additional 3,597 commercial conveyances (97%)

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From Wednesday February 16th, 2022 to Saturday, February 19th, 2022, PRA processed 6,569 commercial conveyances. Within this total, Emerson Commercial accounted for 34% (2,248), Coutts Commercial 22% (1,445), North Portal Commercial 23% (1,480) with the remaining Prairie Region's smaller ports making up the remaining 21% (1,396) of the PRA total.

PRA Region Actions Taken

Due to highways blocked by the trucker convoy both Emerson and Coutts activated their Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) to re-direct traffic, including commercial vehicles to surrounding POEs, taking into account port hours of operation. The Region engaged HQ Travellers branch to extend hours at nearby ports with reduced hours as a means to assist with the diversion. Commercial vehicles were given approval to enter at other POEs as extended release privilege requirements were waived due to the extenuating circumstances. Employees were reassigned to assist with surge capacity to provide respite staff and to cover leave. Districts worked with CFIA, PHAC and FEDEX to establish alternative processes while utilizing other ports.

Impacts of the *Emergencies Act*

The Prime Minister of Canada invoked the *Emergencies Act* on February 14th, 2022, to assist with the ongoing anti-COVID-19 mandates trucker protests which occupied the nations capital and set up blockades at several key border crossings to the United States, including the ports of Emerson and Coutts. The RCMP are maintaining a presence at both Emerson and Coutts POEs as a means to support the frontline and keep the operations running and traffic flowing. Although the Act did not have a direct impact on the PRA land borders, it was apparent that it was the main catalyst that peacefully ended the blockades in both port of entries.

Comparison to 2021

During the time the blockade was in effect (January 29th, 2022 to February 15th, 2022), 20,767 commercial conveyances were still able to enter Canada across PRA's ports of entries. By comparison to the same period in the previous calendar year, PRA processed approximately 25,977 commercial conveyances. As such, 5,210 less commercial conveyances were able to enter Canada; a reduction of 20% overall for that time period.

Coutts saw an approximate drop in Value for Duty (VFD) of 56% (155 million \$) from January 29th to February 11th, 2022 when compared to the prior two week period. Emerson saw a drop in VFD of 24% (45 million\$) from February 9th, 2022 to February 13th, 2022 when compared to the five day period prior to the blockade.

US Exports (Pre-During Blockade)

While the impacts to commercial conveyances entering Canada has been outlined above, Canadian businesses were also impacted with their inability to effectively export goods to the United States during this period.

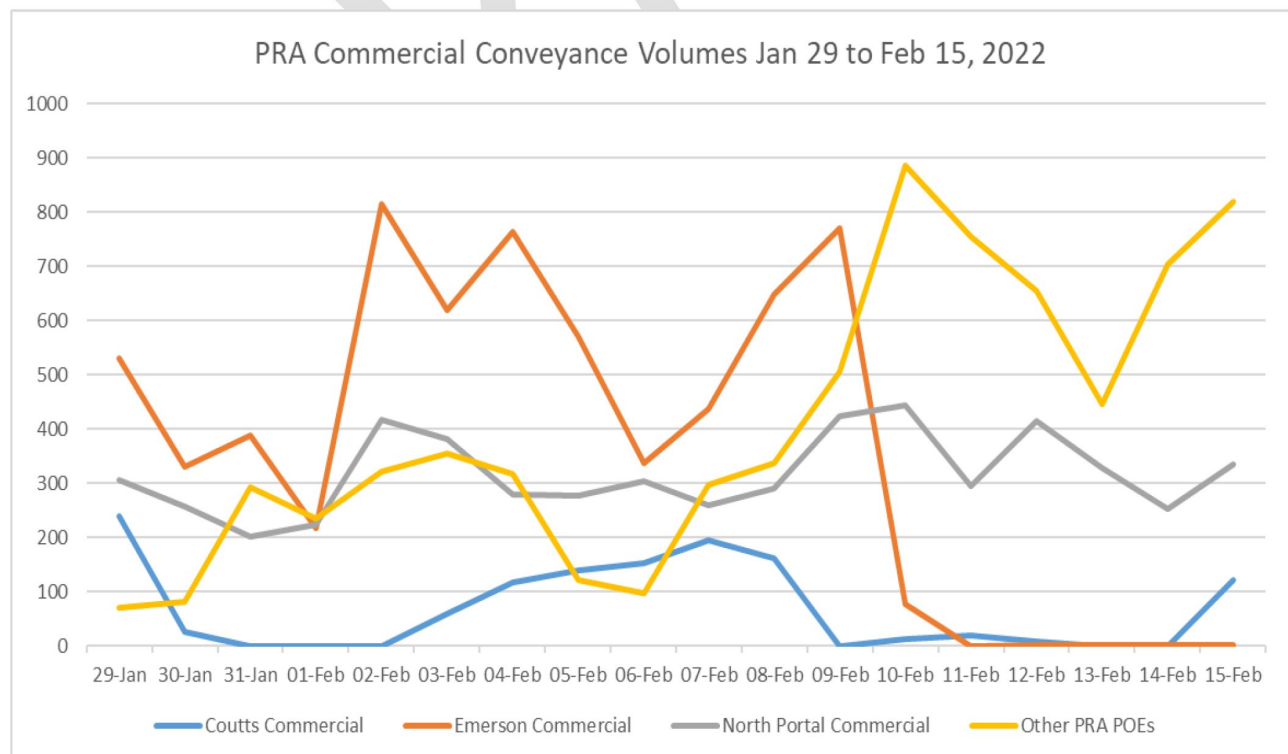
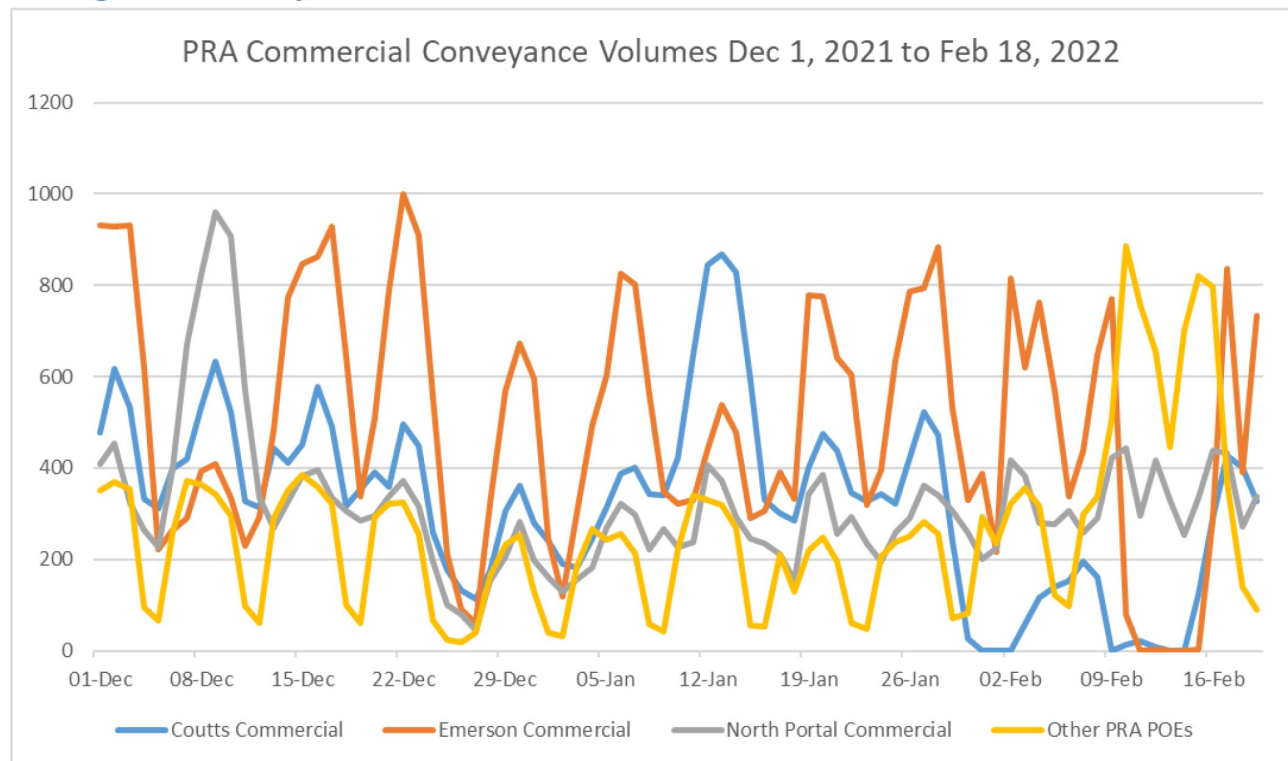


PRA Commercial
Volumes.xlsx

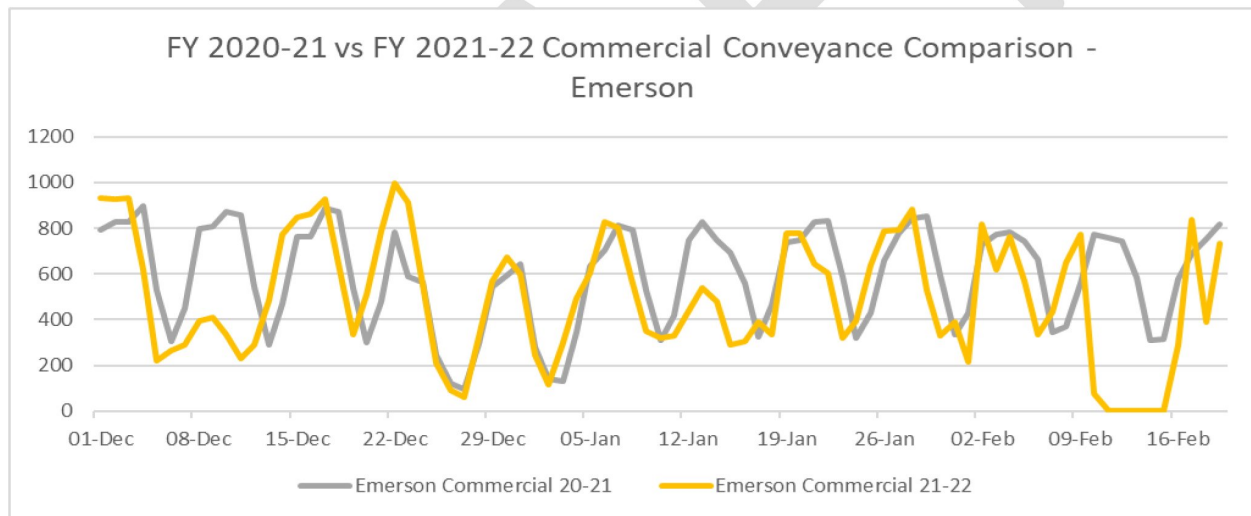
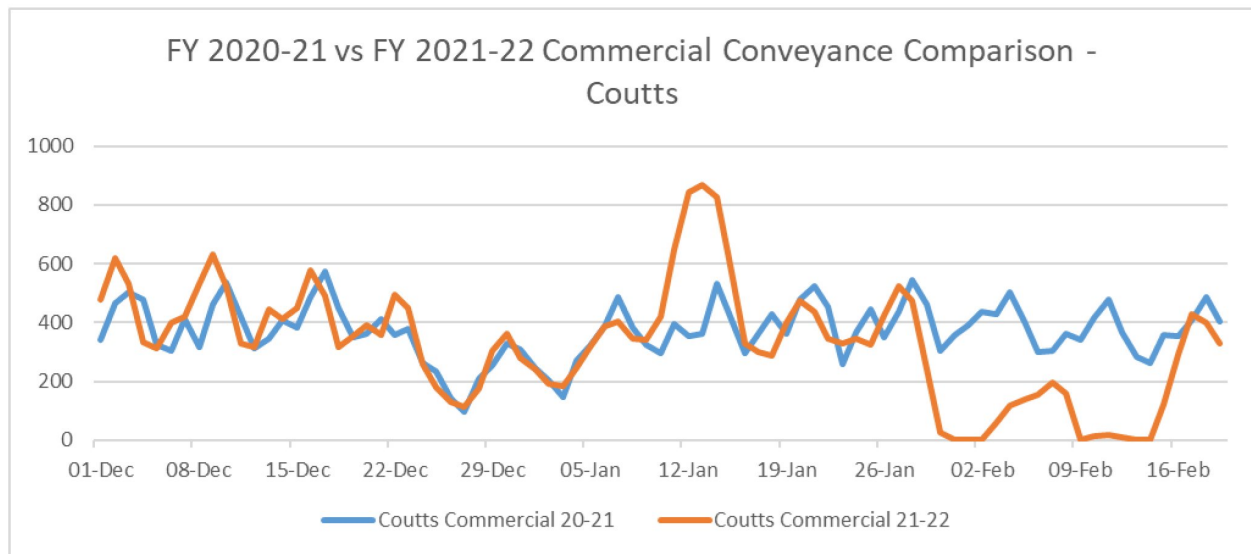
Please see Excel document for additional conveyance volumetrics from the Prairie Region..

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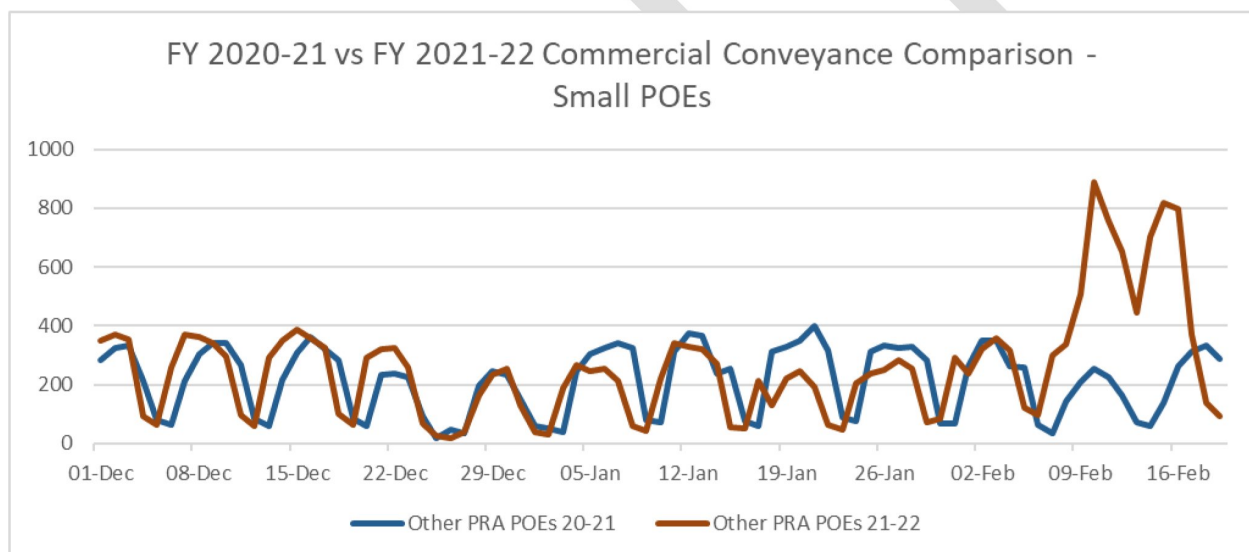
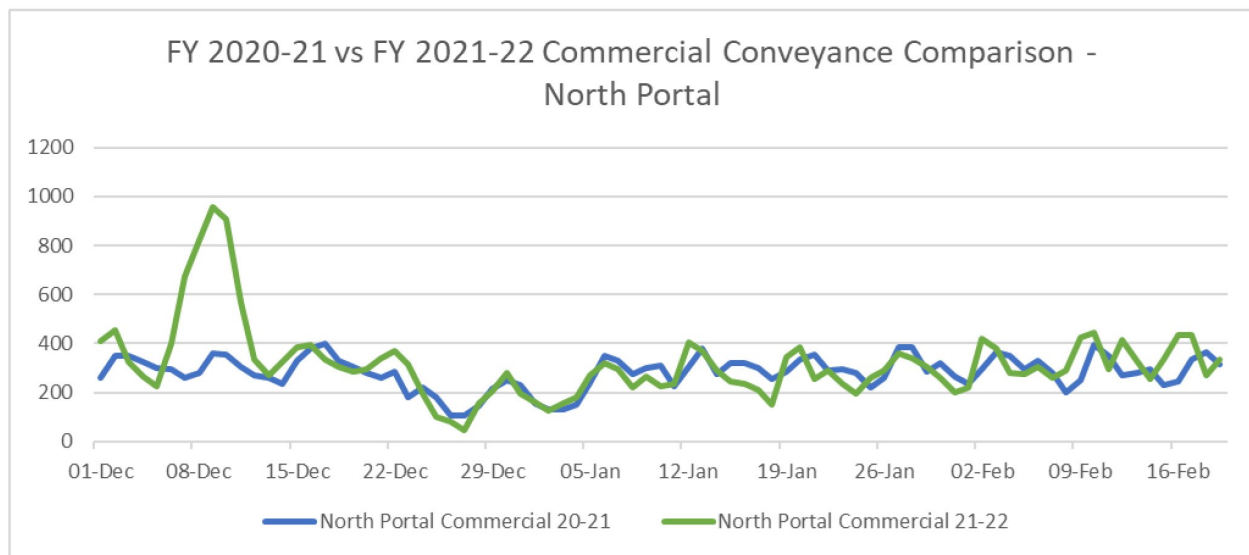
Changes In Conveyance Volumes



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Border Wait Times

Emerson Port of Entry

The Emerson Port of Entry (POE) did not record any border wait times (BWTs) between the period of December 1, 2020 – February 18, 2021. Although Emerson Commercial experienced several BWTs during the period of December 1, 2021 – February 18, 2022, Emerson Traffic BWTs were kept to a minimum with no notable issues recorded. Between February 13, 2022 – February 16, 2022, Emerson Commercial did not record any BWTs but made a notation of “Temporarily Closed” (TC). All BWTs depicted in the below tables are in minutes and times are Central Standard Time.

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North Portal Port of Entry

The North Portal POE recorded several BWTs during the periods of December 1, 2020 – February 18, 2021 and December 1, 2021 – February 18, 2022. BWTs experienced at traffic during these time periods were either equivalent to that of commercial or negligible. The majority of BWTs have consistently occurred daily between 0900 – 19:00. All BWTs depicted in the below tables are in minutes and times are Mountain Time.

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Coutts Port of Entry

The Coutts POE experienced minimal BWTs between December 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021 with zero BWTs in February 2021. Coutts did experience a substantial increase in BWTs between December 1, 2021 – February 18, 2022 compared to the same time period the previous year. Between February 11, 2022 – February 14, 2022, Coutts Commercial did not record any BWTs but made a notation of “Temporarily Closed” (TC). Coutts Traffic notated “Temporarily Closed” between February 12, 2022 – February 15, 2022. All BWTs depicted in the below tables are in minutes and times are Mountain Time.

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09:00																																
10:00										15											25											
11:00									5	5											25	25		55							420	
12:00								5	5	5		10		15	25	5				40	40	5	10	40				20	5		420	
13:00							5	10	5	20				45	5				20	45	55	20	40	10				55	5		420	
14:00		5			5		5	10	10	45				50					50	25	20	15	40	5		55		25	5		420	
15:00	5	5		15			5	25						30	15	10			30	35	15	10		15				20	5		420	
16:00	10	5			5		5		5	5					20				20	55	30	25	25	15							420	
17:00		5		5				25	10					10	10				20	45	40	25	20	10				20			420	
18:00		5		5	5	20		5	5						10				15	45	25	25	20					10			420	
19:00					10			5	5										10	55	15		10					10			420	
20:00																				25	15		5					10			420	
21:00																							5									420
22:00																																420
23:00							10			10																						420

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Coutts Commerical																		
February 1, 2022 -February 18, 2022																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
00:00	420	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				
01:00	420	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				
02:00	420	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				
03:00	420	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				
04:00	420	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				
05:00	420	420	420						60	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
06:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
07:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
08:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
09:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			30	10
10:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			25	20
11:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC				20	10
12:00	420	420	420						420	420	TC	TC	TC					25
13:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				20	25
14:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC					15
15:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				20	10
16:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				25	20
17:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC				10	10
18:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC			5		10
19:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC					
20:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC					10
21:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC					10
22:00	420	420						60	420	420	TC	TC	TC					
23:00	420	420							420	420	TC	TC	TC					

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Coutts Traffic																																		
December 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021																																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
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11:00	40	20			5	25	15		20						5	45		35	30															
12:00	55	15			5	15			25	10					45	45		45	45	5								15						
13:00	100	15	80	15	5	10	20	20	30	20				20	20	25	90		45	25	70	10						20						
14:00	90	10	80	20	5	25		5	25	15				5	25	25	90		55	20	35									15				
15:00	70	10	80		40		5	5	20	15					20	25	90		45	20	30							5	5	20				
16:00	70	10	70		40	15	5	5	55	15			20		15	15	90			5	30							5	5					
17:00	20	10	30	5		5		10	50	10			5		5	15	90				5								5					
18:00	55	10	30	5	5				40	10					5	10	75		20	45														
19:00	55	20	55	5						10						10	25		55	10														
20:00	55	30	30		5	5									10	20	15		80															
21:00	10														5				55															
22:00															5																			
23:00															5																			

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Coutts Traffic																																
January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022																																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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12:00				5			30	15	5		5		5		10						10		25	5				10			420	
13:00		20		10			5	35	10	5					5				5		5	10	15					15			420	
14:00		20			20		5	35	10	5					10				5	5	5	5	15	5				30			420	
15:00	20	20		20	5			20					5						5		30	5						25	10		420	
16:00	25	15			5		5			20					10				5	5	20	15	5								420	
17:00		15		10				30					15						5	20	15		5					10			420	
18:00		15		15	5			10	5										5	10	5		5								420	
19:00		15							5				5								5		5									420
20:00																																420
21:00																																420
22:00																																420
23:00						10				10	5																					420

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Courtts Traffic																		
February 1, 2021 -February 18, 2022																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
00:00	420	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
01:00	420	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
02:00	420	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
03:00	420	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
04:00	420	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
05:00	420	420	420						60	420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
06:00	420	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
07:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
08:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			
09:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			5
10:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			5
11:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	420	TC	TC				
12:00	420	420	420						420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
13:00	420	420							420	420	420	420	TC	TC			10	5
14:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC			10	5
15:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				5
16:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				5
17:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
18:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
19:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
20:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
21:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
22:00	420	420						60	420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				
23:00	420	420							420	420	420	TC	TC	TC				

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About the Prairie Region

There are three designated commercial offices (Emerson, North Portal and Coutts) in the Prairie Region. These three commercial land border operations volumes contribute to the overall national capacity:

1. Emerson (Emerson, Manitoba) – 4.2%
2. Coutts (Coutts, AB) – 2.7%
3. North Portal (North, Portal, Saskatchewan) – 2.1%

The PRA is responsible for processing over 10% of the national total of all highway mode commercial conveyances.

Emerson, Coutts and North Portal account for 85% of all commercial conveyance processing in the PRA region.

Value for Duty:

- In 2019-20 FY, PRA commercial operations accounted for 16% of the total imported commodities “value for duty” across the CBSA all modes (\$166 billion worth of imported commodities).

Historical Context:

In addition to having the largest geographic region in Canada, the PRA is a vital route for oil field goods, which is a key component of Canada's energy sector. The geographic location of the PRA Region facilitates international trade and the domestic inputs towards foreign trade with the United States and other key trading partners. It is for these reasons that PRA Operations have a large impact on Canada's economy.

Commercial conveyances cross into PRA 7 days a week 24 hours per day, with Tuesday-Friday traditionally being the busiest days of the week. On average, PRA processes between 1,400-1,500 commercial conveyances per day, depending on the day of the work week (Monday-Friday) and time of the year, broken down as such:

- Emerson Commercial processes between 500-600 commercial conveyances daily
- Coutts Commercial processes between 300-400 commercial conveyances daily
- North Portal Commercial processes between 200-300 commercial conveyances daily

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